

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 17 of page 16 with the following amended paragraph:

The term "strand displacement" relates to a process whereby an oligonucleotide binds to its complementary target sequence in a double stranded DNA or RNA so as to displace the other strand from said target strand.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 10 of page 26 with the following amended paragraph:

With the growing insight of the potential biological role of triple helical nucleic acids and the therapeutic potential of oligonucleotide-directed triplex formation in the control of gene expression according to the antigene strategy, research in triple helical structure has been considerably stimulated. Thus, in the antigene approach, oligonucleotides are targeted to the unique gene that specifies a disease-related protein and stall transcription by binding to the major groove of the doublestranded DNA target. Articles which contain a good review

of this are Thuong & Mine in Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. (1993) 32, pages 666-690 and "Prospects for the Therapeutic Use of Antigene Oligonucleotides", Maher, L. J. (1996) Cancer Investigation 14(1), 66-82 each of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 27 of page 17 with the following amended paragraph:

In another aspect, the oligonucleotide analogue carries a ligand ~~covalently~~ covalently attached to either the 5' or 3' end. In this case the oligonucleotide analogue is contacted with natural or synthetic nucleic acids in solution whereafter the hybrids formed are captured onto a solid support carrying molecules that can specifically bind the ligand.